

TVA is updating the 2011 Natural Resource Plan (NRP), which contained six Resource Areas centered on stewardship activities. The NRP 2020 has been expanded to include ten proposed Focus Areas that tell a comprehensive story of TVA's work in natural resources. The NRP is a strategic level document that, over the next 15 to 20 years, will guide the direction of TVA's resource stewardship on the 11,000 miles of shoreline and 293,000 acres of public land under its care. Nuisance and Invasive Species Management is one of the ten proposed Focus Areas.

Invasive species represent one of the most significant threats to the Tennessee Valley's natural resources. Climate change, increased recreational use and travel, and global transport may amplify the potential impacts caused by invasive species. Some species can become a nuisance when present in concentrated amounts or in undesired locations, becoming destructive or even threatening to humans, property, and other species. Nuisance and invasive species may have harmful effects on infrastructure, economy, human health, and recreation.

TVA works to address the negative effects of terrestrial and aquatic plants by using a prioritized, planned, and adaptive approach to management. On land, TVA manages nonnative, invasive plants for improvement of habitat using a variety of control methods which include mechanical and chemical controls, and prescribed burning. In an aquatic environment, TVA uses targeted surveying techniques and integrated management strategies where established growth impacts or impedes the access to developed public use areas. This can include the use of mechanical harvesting to clear navigation channels, aquatic labeled herbicides to open up nearshore recreation sites, and selective biological controls where water bodies become inundated with plant growth. In some cases, TVA may manage newly introduced species in an attempt to reduce future impacts from the species. TVA works directly with state and local stakeholders to partner on such efforts.

TVA controls nuisance animals where negative impacts may occur to TVA lands, reservoirs, public infrastructure, and recreational users and facilities in order to protect public health and safety, TVA assets, and adjacent property from damage. For example, TVA is addressing public health and safety issues associated with feral hogs on public lands, bird impacts to power structures and flooding caused by beavers.

Past experience has demonstrated that prevention and control of invasive species is best achieved through collaboration among all levels of government and the private sector. TVA will continue to develop critical partnerships and implement proactive strategies to prevent or reduce the likelihood that new invasive species become established within the Valley.



Benefits:

- Improves protection and enhancement of resources, habitats, biodiversity and use of public lands and reservoirs.
- Enhances public awareness and action regarding the impacts of invasive and nuisance plants and animals.
- Develops partnerships with resource management agencies and nongovernmental organizations to further resource management efforts in the region and beyond.

Objectives:

- Sustain and expand efforts to address the threats of invasive and nuisance species in order to best protect the Valley's natural resources.
- Ensure use of practical and environmentally sound management practices which will take into account stakeholder expectations and the multiple uses of TVA lands and water.
- Implement internal and external outreach efforts creating enhanced public awareness and action regarding the impacts of invasive and nuisance plants and animals.
- Establish partnerships with university, federal, state, and local entities to identify and address threats posed by invasive and nuisance species within the Tennessee Valley.

Programs

The 2011 NRP placed TVA's efforts in Nuisance and Invasive Species Management into two programs located within the Biological Resources resource area. The 2020 NRP proposes Nuisance and Invasive Species Management as a standalone Focus Area, which includes 3 programs. These new programs align the NRP more consistently with how TVA manages the natural resources of the Tennessee Valley.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT

TVA's Aquatic Plant Management Program focuses on the reduction of impacts of nuisance and invasive aquatic plants while balancing the multiple uses of TVA Reservoirs. The program will manage and reduce impacts of nuisance and invasive species, utilizing outreach opportunities to improve understanding of these impacts, while developing collaborative partnerships with university, state, and local partners and serving as technical experts on aquatic plant management in the Valley.

NONNATIVE INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT ON TVA LANDS

TVA's Nonnative Invasive Plant Management Program will manage the effects of nonnative invasive plants on TVA lands. TVA manages these species, utilizing mechanical, chemical, prescribed fire and other means in areas where habitat improvements have been made, in natural areas, on trails, and on dam reservation properties.

NUISANCE ANIMAL CONTROL

The TVA Nuisance Animal Control program manages the effects of nuisance animals on TVA lands, facilities, and recreational users in order to protect against such impacts. The objective of TVA's nuisance animal control program is to reduce natural resource and facility damage caused by nuisance species. This work is done primarily through contractual agreements TVA has with the Wildlife Services section of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animals and Plant Health Inspection Service, who holds all federal and state permits that are required to conduct control activities with various wildlife species.

